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SUBJECT: INDONESIA ESTH HIGHLIGHTS: AUGUST - OCTOBER 2007

1. Summary: The Indonesian Supreme Court hosted a judiciary workshop on wildlife crime and prosecution under the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN) program in August. The Vice Governor of Jakarta announced on September 27 that Jakarta could potentially receive \$2 million in funding from developed countries under the Kyoto Protocol if it can reduce its CO2 emissions. A 2007 survey found that despite overall decreases in other parts of the island, Sumatran rhino populations in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park and Way Kambas National Park in Lampung increased by up to 30 animals. On September 29, Vice President Yusuf Kalla announced that starting in 2008, Indonesia would increase its reforestation target from 1 million to 2 million hectares per year. On September 25, the Head of Forest Office of West Papua said that the Governors of Papua and West Papua provinces would release a joint decree to ban log exports from Papua. The State Ministry of Environment announced on September 15 that it aims to phase out imports of ozone-depleting substances by the end of 2007 as set in the Montreal Protocol. On October 7, Customs officials successfully foiled efforts to smuggle 70 rare animals through Soekarno-Hatta Airport in Jakarta. The State Ministry for Research and Technology and the United Nations Development Programme conducted a "Train the Trainer" session on open-source geographic information system software in Jakarta on October 22-27. On October 3, the Jakarta provincial government granted Rp 40 billion (\$4.4 million) to improve health and education services in eight of its satellite cities. At a ceremony to commemorate World Sight Day, the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced that it would increase its focus on reducing the numbers of vision-impaired children. Several residents of Wolotau Village in the Kota Baru sub-district of the Ende Regency were stricken with anthrax after eating contaminated buffalo meat in mid-October. The Anak Krakatau, or "Child of Krakatau" Volcano, began spitting out flaming rocks and smoke in late October. On October 23, the WWF Program Coordinator for West Kalimantan Hermayani Putera announced that poachers had smuggled rare plant species including orchids and nepenthes (also known as tropical pitcher plants) from Kalimantan to Malaysia. End Summary

Indonesia Hosts ASEAN WEN Judiciary Training

2. The Indonesian Supreme Court hosted a judiciary workshop on wildlife crime and prosecution under the ASEAN WEN program in August in Jakarta. The two-day workshop brought together representatives from Indonesia's judicial sector and focused on prosecution, investigation, Indonesian laws governing protection of wild animals and plants, local and trans-national cooperation with other agencies, and ASEAN-wide initiatives on Mutual Legal Assistance. Judicial officers from Thailand, Malaysia and the United States joined the event in order to share best practices and increase international cooperation to fight trans-national criminals involved in the wildlife trade. Indonesia plans a follow-up training for the national police in February 2008.

Jakarta May Be Eligible for Funding for CO2 Reduction

13. On September 27, Vice Governor of Jakarta Fauzi Wibowo announced that Jakarta could potentially receive \$2 million in funding from developed countries under the Kyoto Protocol if it can reduce its CO2 emissions. To be eligible for the funding, Jakarta would have to meet United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) certification requirements. Fauzi stated that the Jakarta administration is implementing a clean air project to try to meet the UNEP standards. Dollaris R. Suhadi, Project Manager of the Clean Air Project, explained that achieving UNEP certification will take up to a year of research and between \$500,000 and \$1 million in funding. Jakarta officials are optimistic that the city will be able to meet UNEP requirements, citing for example that since the city's bus ways became operational in 2004-2005, the total number of private vehicles on the road has decreased by 14%.

Survey Shows Sumatran Rhino Population on the Rise

14. A 2007 survey conducted by the Rhino Protection Unit (RPU) and Yayasan Badak Indonesia found that despite overall decreases in other parts of the island, Sumatran rhino populations in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park and Way Kambas National Park in Lampung increased by between 24 and 30 animals (to a total of 60 and 85 in each park, respectively). Coordinator of the RPU Arief Rubiyanto stated the increase was unexpected, considering the many threats to the rare animals from poachers and territorial encroachment due to illegal logging and forest conversion activities. RPU patrolling activities in both parks and the curbing of poaching contributed to the improved numbers. In recognition of

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his efforts, Rubiyanto received the Disney Conservation Award from the Walt Disney Corporation.

Indonesia Reforestation Target Raised to 2 Million Hectares Per Year

15. On September 29, Vice President Yusuf Kalla announced that starting in 2008, Indonesia would increase its reforestation target from 1 million to 2 million hectares per year. Kalla added that the international community could not blame Indonesia for cutting its forests in the past, since timber consuming countries such as the U.S., Japan and Korea invested in the concession business. Note: Although the central government's sets the target, responsibility for implementation falls to the regional governments, who may face difficulty meeting the increased level.

Papua Provincial Government Bans Log Exports

16. On September 25, the Head of Forest Office of West Papua Province said that the Governor of Papua Barnabas Suebu and Governor of West Papua Abraham O. Atururi would release a joint decree to ban log exports from Papua. The Papuan administration wants to push investors to open wood processing facilities in Papua rather than shipping logs out from Papua. There are currently 25 concessions within a 4.6 million hectare area, while there is only one wood processing facility, which is located in Sorong. The Papuan government will implement the ban incrementally, beginning with a moratorium on 30 percent of log exports. TIME magazine highlighted Governor Suebu in October as an environmental hero for his conservation efforts.

Government to Halt Ozone-Depleting Imports

17. The State Ministry of Environment announced on September 15 that it aims to phase out imports of ozone-depleting substances by the end of 2007 as set in the Montreal Protocol. The Ministry said that as of August, imports of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) for the year had reached 193 metric tons, down from 2,331 metric tons in 2006.

Officials stated that the ministry had phased out the use of 1,209 metric tons of CFCs from several sectors in 2006 and would eliminate use of CFCs from the industrial sector by June 2008.

Indonesian Customs Officials Foil Animal Smugglers

18. On October 7, Customs officials successfully foiled efforts to smuggle 70 rare animals through Soekarno-Hatta Airport in Jakarta. The Ministry of Finance's Investigation and Enforcement Section reported that Indonesian citizen Jonathan Leo Nardha had tried to smuggle the rare animals in speaker boxes. Nardha was transporting the animals from Malaysia for Indonesian customers in Jakarta.

Disaster Data Base Training Conducted in Jakarta

19. The State Ministry for Research and Technology and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) conducted a "Train the Trainer" session on open-source geographic information system (GIS) software in Jakarta on October 22-27. Francis Sarmiento III, Project Officer for the UNDP's ASEAN Plus Three Sub-regional Node International Open Source Network, explained that Indonesia needed good, efficient, effective and fast local and national databases and information systems to anticipate and manage natural disasters. Sarmiento explained that database and GIS implementation using closed software sources is difficult for developing countries due budget limitations. To address this challenge, the international community has developed GIS applications using free open source software for use by countries such as Indonesia. Around 30 participants with key disaster mitigation responsibilities in the Indonesian government took part in the training.

Jakarta Grants Funding for Health Services

110. On October 3, the Jakarta provincial government granted Rp 40 billion (\$4.4 million) to improve health and education services in eight of its satellite cities. The grant would support efforts to establish community health centers and reduce the number of outbreaks of communal diseases. The grant includes the surrounding cities of Bogor, Depok, Bekasi and Cianjur in West java Province, as well as Tangerang in Banten.

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GOI Seeks to Reduce Vision Impaired Numbers

111. At a ceremony to commemorate World Sight Day, the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced that it would increase its focus on reducing the numbers of visually impaired children. The MOH has conducted several programs under this initiative, including preventative measures through early detection of blindness in community health centers, provision of vitamin A supplements to combat deficiencies that raise the risk of blindness, and subsidies for regular exams and eyeglasses for poorer families. The MOH has established a national commission to tackle blindness and other sight disorders.

Anthrax attacks villagers in East Nusa Tenggara

112. The Head of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) Sub Office of Veterinary of Livestock Office, Maria Geong, reported on October 30 that several residents of Wolotau Village in the Kota Baru sub-district of the Ende Regency were stricken with anthrax after eating contaminated buffalo meat. Around 20 villagers were in critical condition and hospitalized. Geong instructed the Health and Livestock Offices to isolate the area, and the Ende Health Office sent medical teams to the village to support the effort. Ende Regency has been an endemic anthrax area since 1994, where anthrax spores can live up to 60 years.

Anak Krakatau Volcano Spits Flames

¶13. The Anak Krakatau, or "Child of Krakatau" Volcano, began spitting out flaming rocks and smoke in late October. Saut Simatupang of Indonesia's Center for Vulcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation predicted that the volcano would continue to rumble for some time but posed little danger to the area. Anak Krakatau sits in the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra.

"Nepenthes" Flies from Kalimantan

¶14. On October 23, the WWF Program Coordinator for West Kalimantan Hermayani Putera announced that poachers had smuggled rare plant species including orchids and nepenthes (also known as tropical pitcher plants) from Kalimantan to Malaysia. They hunted the plants in the Meratus Mountain area and the Hampangin Forest, located in the Katingan Ilir Sub-district of Katinan Regency (approximately 40 miles from Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan). Demand for these species has increased in Malaysia, leading to an increase in poaching in Indonesia. The Indonesian Orchid Association expressed worry that these activities are threatening the sustainability of the species. Malaysian consumers allegedly pay local people to collect the rare and protected plants in Kalimantan's forests for sale. One pot of Nepenthes is worth Rp 20,000 (approximately \$2.00), and the price for a Black Orchid ranges from Rp 45,000 to Rp 75,000 (approximately \$4.80 to \$8.10). To minimize the threat of poaching, the West Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Office has trained local residents to develop nurseries for the endangered plants.

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